

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number : 10/776,461 Confirmation No.: 3587
Applicants : Todd Vernon, et al.
Filed : February 10, 2004
Title : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING
EGALITARIAN CONTROL IN A MULTIMEDIA
COLLABORATION SESSION
Art Unit : 2614
Examiner : Creighton H. Smith
Docket No. : 45098.00011.UTL1
Customer No. : 36183

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed January 23, 2007, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the following claim amendments, which are believed to place the above-identified patent application in condition for allowance.

- 1. Amendments/Listing of Claims.....Page 2.**
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 8 and 9 (Currently Amended)

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 41-42, 44-45 (Canceled)

Claims 13, 16-17, 43, 46 (Previously Presented)

Claims 14-15, 18-40 (Original)

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A multimedia collaboration system for free flow collaboration between a plurality of participants via an electronic communication network, the multimedia collaboration system configured so that all participants in a multimedia collaboration session have equal privilege levels regarding all controllable aspects of the session, the controllable aspects including at least

a presentation control configured to allow control of the presentation;

a viewer control configured to allow control the session;

a multiple presentation control configured to allow multiple presentations
to be presented by the plurality of participants at the same time; and

a selection control ~~The multimedia collaboration session of claim 7,~~
further configured to allow each of the plurality of participants to choose which
of the multiple presentations to view.

9. (Currently Amended) A multimedia collaboration system for free flow
collaboration between a plurality of participants via an electronic communication
network, the multimedia collaboration system configured so that all participants
in a multimedia collaboration session have equal privilege levels regarding all
controllable aspects of the session, the controllable aspects including at least

a presentation control configured to allow control of the presentation;

a viewer control configured to allow control the session;

a multiple presentation control configured to allow multiple presentations
to be presented by the plurality of participants at the same time;

a selection control configured to allow each of the plurality of participants
to choose which of the multiple presentations to view; and

a change control ~~The multimedia collaboration system of claim 8,~~ further
configured to allow each of the plurality of participants to change the
presentation being viewed.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A multimedia collaboration system comprising a client device configured to enable a participant to participate in a collaboration session, the client device including:

a user interface comprising:

an identification section;

a current presentation section; and

a control section including an opened presentation feature, wherein the presentation feature allows a participant to independently control a presentation at any time during the collaboration session, said independent control including at least dynamically selecting which of a plurality of presentations to view in the collaboration session.

14. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the client device further comprises client software configured to send media streams from the client device.

15. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 14, further comprising a central server interfaced with the client device, wherein the client software is further configured to send control commands to the central server.

16. (Previously Presented) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 15, wherein the control commands comprise instructions requesting that the central server begin receiving media streams from the client device and relay them to other client devices participating in the collaborative session.

17. (Previously Presented) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 16, wherein any of the other client devices can send a similar control command at any time.

18. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the central server is configured to implement the most recently received control command.

19. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the central server is configured to arbitrarily implement one of two simultaneously received control command.

20. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the identification section further includes a presentation title.

21. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 20, wherein the presentation title changes to reflect the current presentation in the session.

22. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the identification section further includes the presenting participant's identity.

23. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the identification section further includes a recording indicator.

24. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further comprises a live history section including information corresponding to materials presented in the collaboration session.

25. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 24, wherein the information displayed in the live history section is a series of iconic representations.

26. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 25, wherein the live history section scrolls through the information displayed.

27. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 26, wherein the movement of the information displayed in the live history section can be independently adjusted by the participant.

28. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 25, wherein a particular subset of the information displayed in the live history section can be independently selected by the participant.

29. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 25, wherein at least one iconic representation is associated with a link corresponding to material stored on the client device.

30. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 29, wherein the material stored on the client device is distributed and stored on the client device at the time the collaborative session is initiated.

31. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a presentation views control feature to select a format in which presented material is viewed.

32. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a synch to presenter feature.

33. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a phone icon.

34. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the control section of the user interface further includes a video icon.

35. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 34, wherein the video icon of the user interface enables the participant to receive video stream feeds.

36. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further includes a presentation icon.

37. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further includes an application sharing icon.

38. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the local user interface further includes a report icon.

39. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the user interface further includes a media manager icon.

40. (Original) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein the participant can select a particular presentation to view.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A multimedia collaboration system for free flow collaboration between a plurality of participants via an electronic communication network, the multimedia collaboration system configured so that each of the plurality of participants has no pre-assigned hierarchical roles in control of a multimedia collaboration session and information is exchanged freely between the plurality of participants.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The multimedia collaboration system of claim 13, wherein said independent control further includes dynamically selecting which media type for any of the plurality of presentations to be shared in the collaboration session.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 13-40, 43 and 46.

Applicant hereby cancels claims 1-7, 10-12, 41-42 and 44-45 from the present application without prejudice and concurrently file a corresponding Continuation Application which will continue the prosecution of the cancelled claims.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended as suggested Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 8 and 9 be found allowable.

Applicant's respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

In the event that a variance exists between the amount tendered and that required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to enter and consider this Reply, or to prevent abandonment of the present application, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2613 (Order No. 45098.00011.UTL1.P1068).

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP

Dated: 4/23/2007

By: 

Amy E. Simpson.

Registration No. 54,688

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP

Customer Number: 36183

P.O. Box 919092

San Diego, CA 92191-9092

Telephone: (858) 720-2500

Facsimile: (858) 720-2555